

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

January 26th, 2021

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday January 26th, 2021 at 7:05pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Shirley Canniff, and associate member Sarah Carrier were present. Associate member Scott Lever was not present for this meeting. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: Erin Daly & Danielle Desilets

Members of the Public: Daniel Amstutz

Preliminary Matter: Leslie Mayer, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Ms. Mayer read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Ms. Mayer.

Open Forum – Public Comment

Daniel Amstutz, the Senior Transportation Planner at Town of Arlington, was present on the call. Mr. Amstutz stated that he was looking to speak to the Commission on a project, which he is working on alongside Emily Sullivan of Conservation and the Mystic River Watershed Association. The Town of Arlington has already been selected to receive \$16,000 from the MassTrails Grant Program. This grant will support the design and engineering of a connector between the Reservoir and the Minuteman Bikeway via Hurd Field.

The plan is to apply for an additional MassTrails grant, which would provide funding for a study regarding the project above and trails along the Mystic River. This comes as a study would provide beneficial information as there are numerous stakeholders involved. This includes the Town of Arlington, DCR, Mass Dot, etc. The deadline for the additional funding request is next Monday

This project would involve Buzzell Field, as they envision the path going through the property in some manner. Mr. Amstutz stated that they wanted Commissioners to be aware of this project and the additional funding request. The Commission will be included if they are awarded funding for the study. Ms. Mayer thanked him for this information, asked for the application materials to be forward to the Commission for reference, and wished them luck on the application.

Correspondence Received: Erin Daly, Dallin School Request

Erin Daly, representing Dallin School, presented to the Commission a request to host an interactive community art exhibit on the fence outside of Dallin School. This would be a project where individuals would create a heart shape on the fence using yarn. Commissioners asked a variety of questions regarding this proposal. These were focused around safety in relation to COVID-19, timelines, and quality of the project. Mr. Connelly asked that the group make sure that families socially distance while doing the activity. Ms. Mayer stated if yarn is provided to participants, hand sanitizer should be available. Ms. Rothenberg asked if there will be someone will monitor who is working on the project and when. Organized times were discussed but they believed any specific times may cause issues. Ms. Daly stated it is possible to have individuals sign up if the Commission requires that. Ms. Daly believes if it is open for a few weeks and people can come when they want, it will be more flexible for families and safer. Ms. Mayer said her concerns are the chance that there is a nice weekend day and many people go to work on the project. Mr. Walker has a son at Dallin and believes this is a great idea. Mr. Walker stated that proactively, signage and names should be listed in large text to avoid congestion. Ms. Daly said that the examples and pictures really create an art piece themselves. Ms. Mayer requested that information on the expectations (masks, social distancing, etc.) be sent out to help avoid issues. Ms. Canniff likes the idea, especially with all fencing that is available to work on. Ms. Canniff suggested making sure that child and their families know that the project will be taken down eventually. Ms. Daly stated the March 30th date will be noted to families and that the project will be taken down earlier if deteriorating. Mr. Connelly requested for Ms. Daly to forward any correspondence for review prior to being sent out. Ms. Canniff made the motion to approve the Dallin School project request, as discussed. This motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Commissioners voted to approve the project, 5-0, at 7:25pm.

Reservoir Phase II Final Design Review & Commission Approval – KZLA

Danielle Desilets of KZLA was in attendance to present the Reservoir Phase II Final Design to the Commission for review and approval. Approval will allow this portion of the project to go out for bid. Approval to move forward with the design was

recently approved by both the Arlington and Lexington Conservation Commissions. Each has 21 days to get conditions and the Towns will communicate on this. Following meetings with these Conservation Commissions, erosion control was added. Ms. Desilets stated that the storm water management system is different than the previous design set. Other items of importance include invasive species removal techniques (avoiding spraying when possible), operations and maintenance manuals for porous pavement & cleaning. Furthermore, Town DPW operations must not and will not dump snow in the parking lot or area around the Reservoir. Ms. Desilets spoke to Commissioners on the projects bank stabilization scope, which has been broken down into (4) areas in the bid package including cored logs and plantings. Concerns were mentioned around changing in water levels and detrition of the logs. With this, yearly check ins will occur on the logs. Other changes previously talked about were fencing. A conversation around the surfacing material occurred. No additional trees will be removed.

Ms. Desilets spoke on the project staging areas. The staff parking lot will be used as a continuous staging area. Most of the parking lot will be used as staging area other than the beach season between June 15th & September 1st. The contractor must leave at least (15) parking spaces available for public access during the spring and fall. Ms. Desilets outlined the (6) alternates listed for the project. They are listed below in order of priority:

1. Trail Connection (ADA) using a portion of exiting trail
2. Multiuse court surface
3. Decorative fence on side of playground
4. Irrigation
5. Sod placement instead of seeding
6. Rubber trail surfacing

Ms. Desilets went through the current project schedule and timeline with the Commission. The bid for the project will begin being advertised February 9th or 10th. There will be a mandatory site walk that contractors must attend before submitting a bid for the program. The bid opening is scheduled for March 3rd. Substantial completion on Phase 2 should be done by 12/31/21, with final completion by 3/21/22. It was noted that J.J. Cardosi, Inc. was the contractor which won the building bid.

At this time, Commission Members each had a chance to express their thoughts and feedback on the information that was presented. Mr. Lasker stated concerns that ADA trail connection being first could impact the possibility of the others, as this alternative is the most expensive. Ms. Rothenberg also expressed concern regarding the order of the list. Mr. Connelly stated that the list was determined by Ms. Desilets and himself based off the feedback of Commissioners & overall need.

The ADA Trail will allow full access to a continuous trail loop all 52 weeks. The beach area is gated and the area is only open to beach goers during the day while it is beach season. This area is locked and not accessible during the beach season when the facility is closed (at night). Ms. Mayer led a discussion around the inability to staff the gate 24 hours a day during this season. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Lasker if there is something higher priority, but was not exactly sure. All Commissioners expressed that rubber trail surfacing should be last.

Ms. Rothenberg asked about other funding sources. Mr. Walker as if the base bid would include the path along the water. This was confirmed by Ms. Desilets. Ms. Mayer stated the Lexington Conservation Commission was very favorable to the ADA pathway going in, as it would require invasive plants (burning brush) to be removed. The Park and Recreation Commission discussed possible option and made the decision to leave the alternatives in the current order, as they can do the additions with unit pricing. Ms. Desilets explained that unit pricing will breaks down project. A list of individual items will have set associated costs, so the Commission and the Town are aware of these up front. The addition of unit prices will allow them to pick or choose specific add on items as they would like/funding is available. This also allows for the flexibility to change the order in the future.

It was determined that the order would slightly change. These changes are as follows: Irrigation #3, Sod #4, and Fencing #5. Mr. Lasker asked where cost cutting can occur if the initial bid comes in over. This topic was previously discussed by Mr. Connelly and Ms. Desilets, who reported that the overlook area on the southwest side of the program could be extracted from the plan if needed. The removal or change of other elements will not make a significant cost difference, and the ones that do would cause major overall changes to the plan. This is something that has already occurred with stabilization.

Mr. Connelly asked about this being a deduct alternate. Mr. Lasker stated that more projects are going out for bid across the state and with this, they will not add a deduct alternate

Ms. Carrier and the Commission spoke for several minutes regarding the playground and play areas. Ms. Carrier expressed concerns regarding the sand & water play area. She is requesting for more boulders to be incorporated to the beach area to be used for seating and play at a low cost. Ms. Carrier asked why there is a gap between play table and other item. Ms. Desilets stated that they are designed as separate systems. Ms. Carrier asked if table had a hole feature, which Ms. Desilets will look into. Ms. Carrier wants to maximize the play opportunities. With the most recent changes to the main part of playground, she questioned the placement of the half-spears and if the area is clustered. Ms. Rothenberg asked about the slope. Ms. Desilets stated that there are individuals that focus on playground and ADA requirements. The design and placement of the playground and its features are up to these codes. Ms. Carrier stated that she is requesting for two clusters of the half spears. The Commission continued to discuss the slide placement/ spear placement/ general spacing.

Ms. Carrier asked about ADA transition on looped path near the playground gate, asking if the entirety could be made ADA accessible. Ms. Desilets believes this could tight with the large required safety zones for the swings. Ms. Carrier asked if path works as a transition zone and about the bolded boundary zone. She also requested for the ADA transition point to be closer to the playground entrance and that the swing placement is rotated to allow for a section of rubber surfacing to also serving as a transition zone. Ms. Desilets will have the KZLA team look at this. Ms. Carrier restated her biggest focus is to add additional boulders and increase the overall investment in play opportunities. Ms. Rothenberg asked about safety concerns regarding these boulders. This was responded to, stating that they are not close to the water or high off the ground, having no impact on risk. Ms. Mayer said that Commission Members will need to put trust in if KZLA if they make any changes based of the feedback from Ms. Carrier or other Commission Members during this meeting.

At this time, Ms. Rothenberg made the motion to approve KZLA's design for the Phase 2 Reservoir Project. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lasker. The motion to approve the Reservoir Phase 2 Design, allowing the project to go out to bid, as approved by the Park & Recreation Commission, 5-0, at 8:25pm.

Mr. Connelly and each Commission Member shared their gratitude and thanks to Ms. Desilets and the entire KZLA team for their work.

Capital Project Updates

Hill Hill Playground ADA project

Mr. Connelly reported that a project will soon start at Hill' Hill top create a path system from the parking lot, to the Hill's Hill Playground, on the edge of the Hill's Hill Field, to the bike path which will make all features connected & ADA accessible. The bidding process with this was pushed back a week and the process will begin this Thursday. This project will be funded through ADA funding. The DPW will be contributing approximately \$15,000-\$20,000. Design process cost roughly \$6,000.

CPA Requests

Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that he will be meeting with CPA tomorrow. The submitted projects for FY21 include Hurd Field and Spy Pond Playground. It was noted that Ms. Mayer serves as the Commission's CPA representative. At this time, it is unknown if the requested amount of funding for these projects will be approved. Commission Members discussed anticipated projects for future fiscal years. The outlook on projected CPA and Capital Funding was also discussed.

5 Year Capital Improvement Feasibility Study

Mr. Connelly reported that he met with representatives from Stantec regarding this. Information on the feasibility study will be presented to Commission Members in February. Cost estimates for these potential projects will be critical as they move forward and for CPA.

Rink ADA Spectator Seating

Mr. Connelly stated that the McLaughlin Management Group has started working on design aspects for the ADA Spectator Seating Project at the Ed Burns Arena.

Task Group Updates: Mountain Biking, Field Policy

Mr. Lasker reported that he has received most surveys back from members of the Mountain Biking Task Force. This survey was to collect information on their feedback and findings. Mr. Lasker noted that several individuals did not fully complete all the questions on the survey. This will be looked into. Once the Task Force has reviewed the survey results, the information and any suggestions to move forward will be presented to the Commission. It is anticipated that this will take place in late February.

Recreation and Rink Updates

Registration for all spring and summer programs opened online Monday, February 8th at 8:00pm. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Vaillette will be meeting this week via Zoom with individuals who held plots in the Magnolia Community Gardens in 2020. This meeting is to serve as an introduction and a platform to discuss their feedback, the 2021 season, and items moving forward.

Approval of Minutes – 1/12/2021

The approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 12th, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was discussed. The items noted for edit included the following:

- Page 2: On the top of the page, the statement regarding KZLA should be changed to “KZLA is also looking where cuts can be made”.
- Page 2: Under the Task Force section, replace “are” to “is” best to move forward with.
- Page 3: Under the Park Master Plans section, replace “from” with “for” Menotomy Rocks Park.

The motion to approve the January 12th, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes, as amended, was made by Mr. Lasker. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. The Commission voted to approve the January 12th Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes as amended with a vote of 4-0, at 9:03pm. Ms. Caniff obtained from this vote as she was not present at the 1/12/21 Commission Meeting.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

- a) 5 Year Capital Feasibility Study
- b) Mountain Biking Task Force Survey Feedback

Other

Mr. Walker asked for confirmation on the contractor who was awarded the Reservoir Beach building project. J.J. Cardosi, Inc. of Rhode Island, was confirmed as the project contractor.

The next Park & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Lasker made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Caniff. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0, at 9:05pm. The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Program Supervisor, Zachary Vaillette.